



General Assembly

January Session, 2001

Committee Bill No. 5740

LCO No. 3931

Referred to Committee on Education

Introduced by:
(ED)

**AN ACT CONCERNING TEACHERS AND INCENTIVES FOR
TEACHING IN CERTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICTS.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (a) The Department of Education shall establish,
2 within available appropriations, a program to provide three-thousand-
3 dollar salary bonuses to beginning teachers in priority school districts
4 pursuant to section 10-266p of the general statutes. Teachers shall be
5 eligible for the bonus for the first year they teach in such a district. The
6 department shall provide funds to each priority school district to
7 increase the salary of eligible teachers.

8 (b) The department shall provide, within available appropriations,
9 grants to such priority school districts for the establishment of teacher
10 reward programs. Under such programs, the school district shall
11 provide one-thousand-dollar salary bonuses to teachers who
12 demonstrate excellence by completion of portfolios of their work.

13 Sec. 2. (NEW) The Department of Education shall establish, within
14 available appropriations, a program to provide five-thousand-dollar
15 salary bonuses to teachers (1) who agree to teach a minimum of three

16 years in a school on the list of schools in need of improvement
17 pursuant to section 10-223b of the general statutes, or (2) in shortage
18 subject areas pursuant to section 10-8b of the general statutes.

19 Sec. 3. Subsection (g) of section 10-17f of the general statutes is
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof:

21 (g) The State Board of Education shall adopt regulations, in
22 accordance with the provisions of chapter 54, to establish requirements
23 for: (1) Such programs, which may be modeled after policy established
24 by the Department of Education for bilingual education programs; (2)
25 local and regional boards of education to integrate bilingual and
26 English as a second language program faculty in all staff, planning and
27 curriculum development activities; and (3) all bilingual education
28 teachers employed by a local or regional board of education, on and
29 after July 1, [2001] 2006, to meet all certification requirements,
30 including completion of a teacher preparation program approved by
31 the State Board of Education, or to be certified through an alternate
32 route to certification program.

33 Sec. 4. (NEW) The Commissioner of Education shall adopt
34 regulations, in accordance with the provisions of chapter 54 of the
35 general statutes, to set eligibility criteria for the waiving of the fees for
36 teacher certification examinations administered by the department.
37 The commissioner shall waive the fee for any candidate who meets
38 such criteria.

39 Sec. 5. (NEW) The Department of Higher Education shall establish,
40 within available appropriations, a tuition relief fund to assist minority
41 teachers in obtaining masters degrees.

42 Sec. 6. (a) The sum of ____ dollars is appropriated to the
43 Department of Education, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for a
44 grant to the city of New Haven for salary bonuses for teachers in
45 subject shortage areas.

46 (b) The sum of _____ dollars is appropriated to the Department of
47 Education, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2002, for a grant to the
48 city of New Haven to establish a fund to reimburse minority teacher
49 candidates in subject shortage areas for their traveling and housing
50 expenses when they come to the city for job interviews.

51 Sec. 7. The sum of _____ dollars is appropriated to the Department
52 of Economic and Community Development, for the fiscal year ending
53 June 30, 2002, for a grant to the city of New Haven for the development
54 of a program to renovate housing in New Haven and rent such
55 housing to beginning teachers in New Haven.

56 Sec. 8. This act shall take effect July 1, 2001.

Statement of Purpose:

To establish programs to improve the level of compensation for teachers in priority school districts, teachers in schools on the list of schools in need of improvement and teachers in subject shortage areas. To extend the period of time for bilingual education teachers to meet certification requirements. To waive the fees for certification examinations for candidates who meet criteria specified by the department. To establish a program to assist minority teachers to obtain masters degrees. To provide funds to New Haven for a number of programs to assist the school district in recruiting teachers.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]

Co-Sponsors: REP. DYSON, 94th Dist.; REP. MARTINEZ, 95th Dist.
REP. SCIPIO, 93rd Dist.; REP. MEGNA, 97th Dist.
SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.; SEN. LOONEY, 11th Dist.